

**Executive Host Information 2005
Placement Week November 15-19, 2004**

Office Name: Office of Ocean Exploration

Position Title: Office of Ocean Exploration Program Assistant

How many total staff are in your immediate office / branch? (Select one option, mark with X)

1-5	
6-10	
> 10	x

Have you previously hosted a Sea Grant fellow (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	x
No	

If yes, how many? 5

If fellow is currently on assignment, please provide contact information.

Name	
Tel	
Email	

Does your office accept non-United States (foreign) citizens? (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	x
No	

Organizational Overview

Mission Statement: (Please limit to 30 words.)

Lead NOAA ocean discovery by searching, investigating, and documenting unknown and poorly-known areas of the ocean using interdisciplinary exploration to advance and disseminate knowledge of the ocean environment and its physical, chemical, biological, and historical resources.

Brief Overview of Your Office's work: (Please limit to 150 words.)

The NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration's (OE's) purpose is to search and investigate the ocean for the purpose of discovery and advancement of knowledge of the ocean's physical, chemical and biological environments, processes, characteristics, and resources by means of interdisciplinary expeditions to unknown, or poorly-known regions of the world ocean. The OE Program advocates discovery-based science and collaboration among multiple partners and disciplines. Education and outreach are important program components.

The NOAA OE Program was launched to support recommendations called for in a report entitled *Discovering Earth's Final Frontier: A U.S. Strategy for Ocean Exploration*. As envisioned in the report, the Ocean Exploration Program would seek to bring the best of our Nation's ocean scientists to ocean science and technological frontiers for the purpose of discovering more about

life in the ocean, new ocean processes, understanding more about maritime cultural resources and maritime heritage, and identifying natural products and resources. The NOAA OE program supports NOAA's role as the Nation's agency for ocean stewardship.

Do you have partnership projects, multi-agency workgroups, or working relationships with other offices? Please list.

Almost everything OE accomplishes, it accomplishes with the support of partnerships. These partnerships are with other NOAA offices, other Federal, state, and tribal agencies, university and private research organizations. OE's partnerships extend to outreach and educational organization and include organizations like the Girls Scouts USA and Boy Scouts USA; the National Geographic Society; informal science centers, museums, and aquariums; the National Science Teachers Association; the National Marine Educators Association; and a multitude of scientific and technical professional organizations.

Assignment Description.

It is understood that the fellow's specific responsibilities will be tailored to his / her unique skills and interests. Please articulate probable assignments and duties and the education / professional development that these tasks will bring to the fellow.

Estimated Fellow Travel, Out-of-Office: (Select one option, mark with X)

0 days / month	
1-3 days / month	x
4-7 days / month	
8-10 days / month	
> 2 weeks / month	

Estimated DC-Area Travel: (Select one option, mark with X)

0 days / month	x
1-3 days / month	
4-7 days / month	
8-10 days / month	
> 2 weeks / month	

Does this position require mandatory skills: (Select one option, mark with X)

Yes	
No	x

Desired Background Skills: Please list. (e.g. strong written / communication skills, knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint software, etc.).

Good computer skills (graphics, presentation, and word processing applications)
Strong communications skills (good oral and written communications)
Organizational skills (ability to manage several projects and see them through to completion)
Creativity (ability to imagine creative alternatives to project outcomes)

In 300 words or less, please describe the tasks, duties, or projects the fellow will undertake, the skills a fellow will gain, and the deliverables a fellow can expect to produce from completing these tasks.

The NOAA Ocean Exploration Program Assistant position is a one-year opportunity for a Knauss Fellow to acquire experience in working with one of the Agency's newest and most innovative programs. The Knauss Fellow will have the opportunity to work in many program elements as the need arises, and would focus his/her Fellowship on the following areas:

- 1) Over the past three years, a tremendous amount of data has been collected in areas previously uncharacterized in any way in the South Atlantic Bight. This data includes multibeam mapping, submersible dive video/images, species data, and additional habitat characterization, to name a few. The Fellow will develop a previously-unprecedented regional characterization of this highly sophisticated data for use by the broader scientific community.
- 2) A large focus of the NOAA OE program involves communicating pre-expedition, expedition, and post-expedition plans and findings to the general public and educational community. Port calls, including tours of the ship by invited guests to communicate expedition science, and media events are major components of several expedition offerings during the field season. In addition to working with the Director of Communications in the OE Office to host such events, the Fellow will also work to develop media advisories and other publications to communicate expedition findings to the general public, including a high-school journalism project targeted to increasing the pool of journalists interested in covering ocean science topics. The Fellow will have a very good chance of going to sea on at least one OE expedition and serving as the Web coordinator for that mission. See <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov>, Expeditions for information.
- 3) In addition to the outreach component described in #2 (above), NOAA OE has a robust education program in place to enhance ocean science literacy at the national level through working closely with museums and aquariums throughout the country. It offers professional development to teachers and other educators using a curriculum developed to communicate the science behind expeditions to middle- and high-school students (see <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov>, Education for information). The Fellow will work closely with the OE National Education Coordinator to host professional development for teachers to help advance ocean science literacy as called for in the U.S. Commission on Ocean Science Policy Report.